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COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

FELICIA HARDY: THE BLACK CAT

INSIDE:
CARDIAC!

THEIR NAME: FIRST STRIKE!
THEIR MISSION: TO PROTECT
THE SECRETS OF THE
MORELLE CORPORATION.

THEIR FIRST VICTIM:
THE BLACK CAT!

shaw001



THIS IS THE
GREATEST CITY
IN THE WORLD.



THIS IS ONE OF THE LARGEST
PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERNS
IN THE GREATEST CITY IN THE
WORLD.

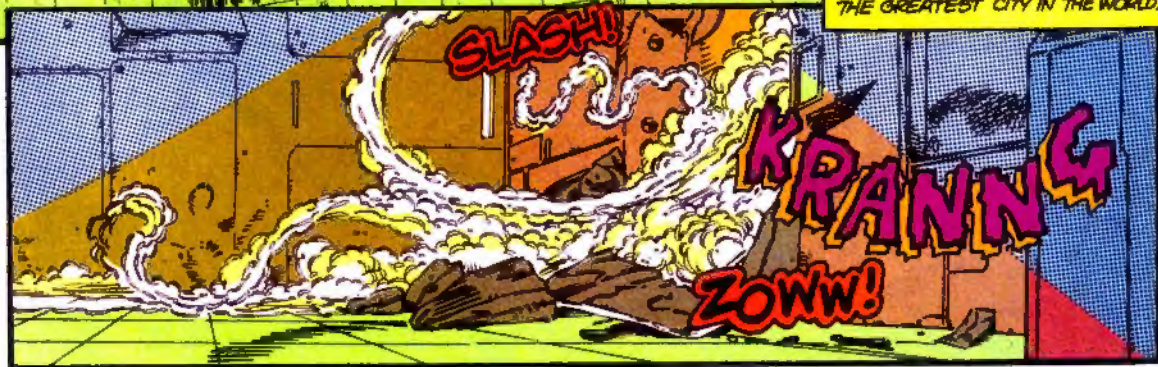


THIS IS A CAT BURGLAR BREAKING
AND ENTERING INTO ONE OF THE
LARGEST PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERNS
IN THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD.



THIS IS A HUMAN VIVI-
SECTION LAB DISCOVERED
BY THE CAT BURGLAR'S
BREAKING AND ENTERING
INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST
PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERNS
IN THE GREATEST CITY IN
THE WORLD.

THIS IS THE CRYOGENIC VAULT
IN THE HUMAN VIVISECTION LAB
DISCOVERED BY THE CAT BURGLAR'S
BREAKING AND ENTERING
INTO ONE OF THE LARGEST
PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERNS
IN THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD.



THIS IS WHAT THE CAT BURGLAR ENCOUNTERED AFTER THE CRYOGENIC VAULT OPENED AFTER SHE BROKE THE SECURITY ON THE HUMAN VIVISECTION LAB IN THE GIANT PHARMACEUTICAL CONCERN IN THE GREATEST CITY IN THE WORLD.

ANY QUESTIONS?

SAVE THEM. WE'RE OUT OF BREATH!

CHIMERA LOST, PART THREE

CLAWS & EFFECT

TERRY KAVANASH	JOEY CAVALIERI	ANDREW WILDMAN
PLOT	SCRIPT	PENCILS
STEPHEN BASKERVILLE	DAVE SHARPE	BOB SHAREN
INKS	LETTERS	COLORS
ERIC FEIN	DANNY FINGEROTH	TOM DeFALCO
EDITOR	GROUP EDITOR	TOP CAT

CLAW AWAY AT THEM ALL YOU WANT, CAT!

THE FIRST STRIKERS WERE CREATED TO REPAIR THEMSELVES!

"FIRST STRIKERS"? THEY DON'T CHAT MUCH, DO THEY?"



WERE YOU HELD IN PRE-
SERVATIVE CHEMICALS
WITHIN STASIS TUBES
FOR WEEKS, YOUR
FIRST IMPULSE WOULDN'T
BE TO "CHAT MUCH"
EITHER.

WHRRAN WHMM

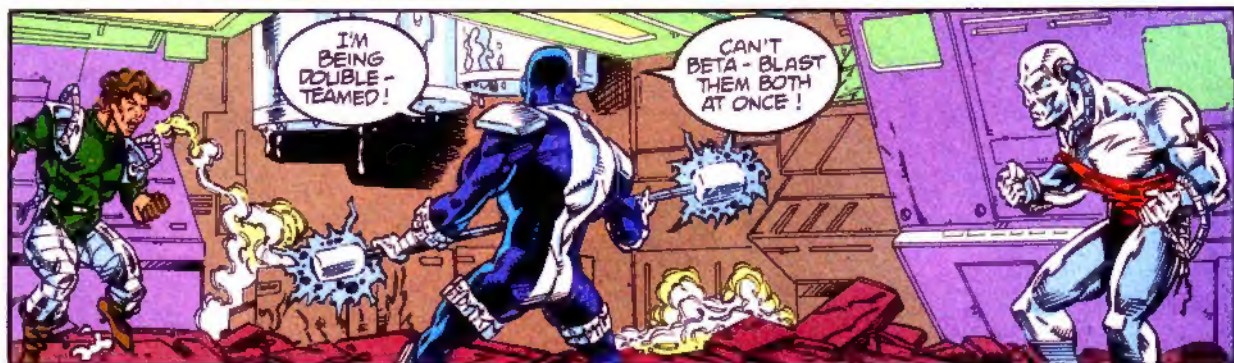
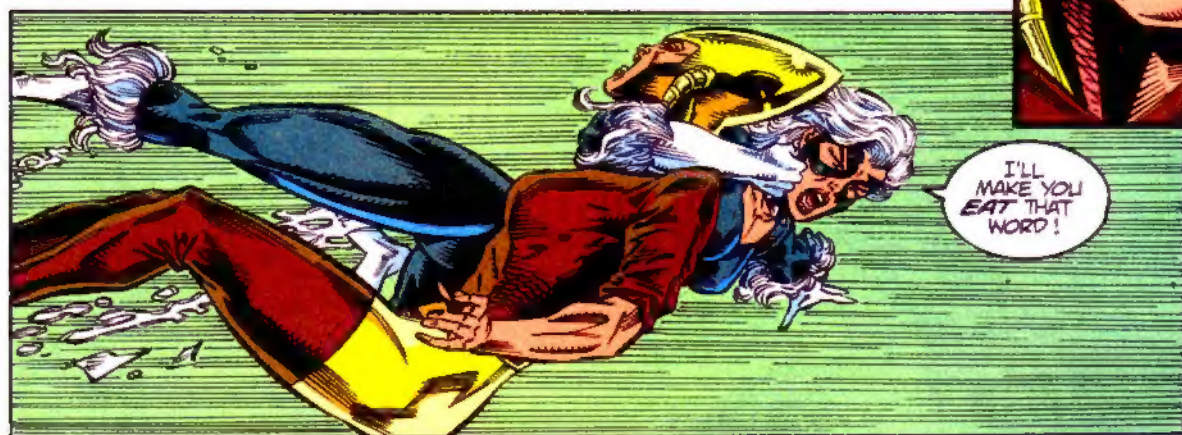
I HATE
FOR MY
OPPONENTS
TO TALK
WHILE I'M
HECKLING.

I GUESS
I SHOULD BE
GRATEFUL
FOR SMALL
CONCESSIONS.

OF
COURSE,
GIVEN THEIR
TALENT FOR
SELF-
REPAIR...

...A GOOD, SOLID
DEBATE WOULD BE
WELCOME RIGHT
NOW.

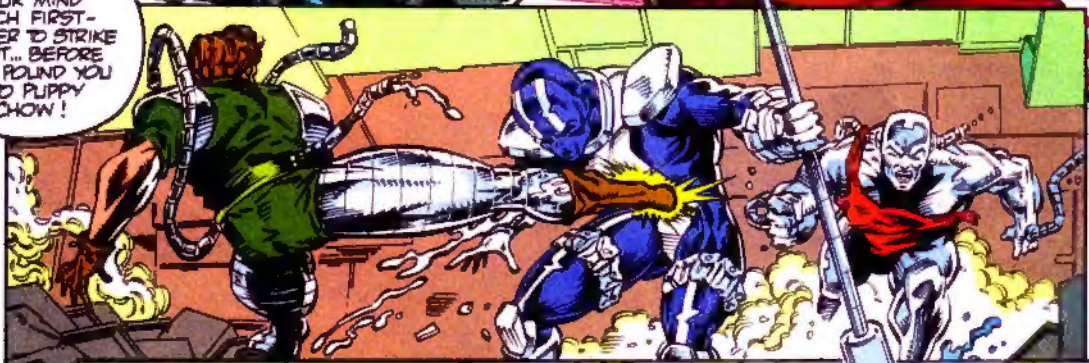




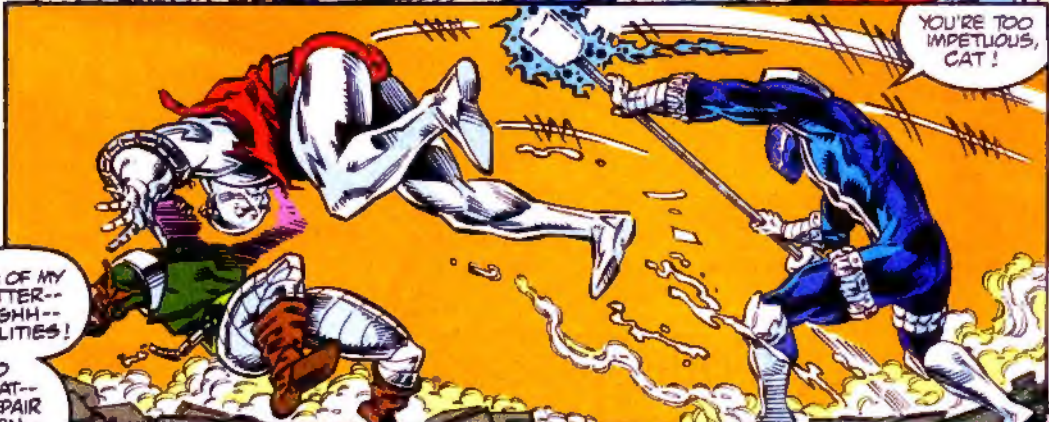


DECISIONS,
DECISIONS!

MAKE UP
YOUR MIND
WHICH FIRST-
STRIKER TO STRIKE
FIRST... BEFORE
THEY POUND YOU
INTO PUPPY
CHOW!



THERE'S SUCH A
THING AS MANEUVERING
THEM INTO POSITION, SO
I CAN BLAST THEM BOTH
AT ONCE!



YOU'RE TOO
IMPETUOUS,
CAT!

ONE OF MY
BETTER--
AGGHH--
QUALITIES!

COULD
LISE THAT--
SELF-REPAIR
FUNCTION--
ABOUT NOW!



YOU'VE GOT THE RIGHT IDEA, CARDIAC...

I THINK I'VE WORKED A WAY AROUND THEIR SELF-REPAIR DIRECTIVE!

THEY "HEAL" FROM ATTACKS FROM OUTSIDERS... US, THAT IS--



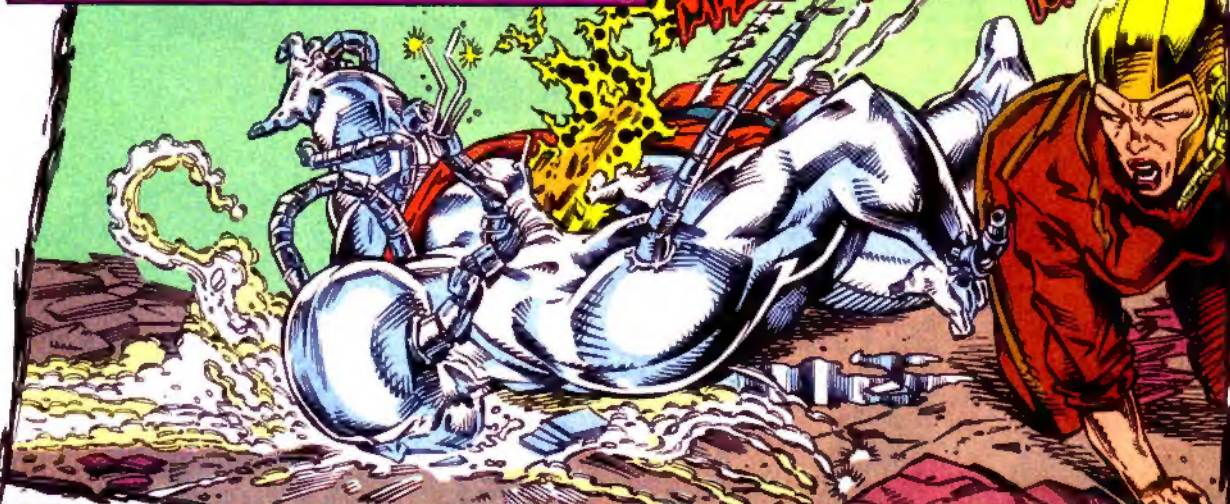
--BUT IF I SLAM THEM TO--GETHER--

--LET'S SEE HOW THEY DO AGAINST HARM INFLICTED BY THEMSELVES!

JUST AS I HOPED! THEY'RE WEAKENED BY THE DAMAGE DONE BY EACH OTHER!

A DIRECTIVE BUILT INTO THEIR PROGRAMMING, IN CASE ONE OF THEM WENT AWRY, NO DOUBT! THERE'S NO DEFENSE AGAINST ITS FELLOW CYBORGS!

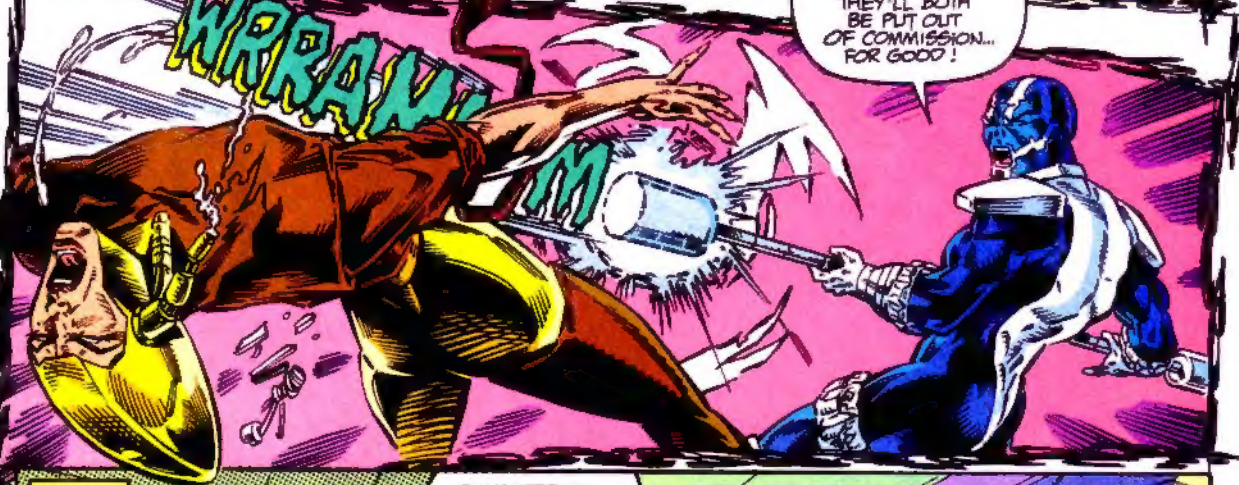
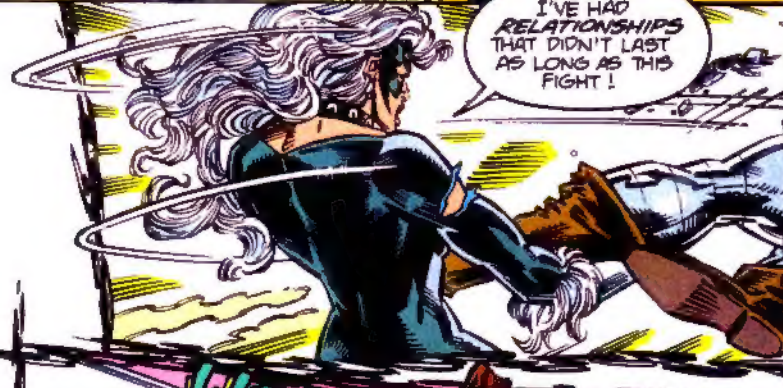
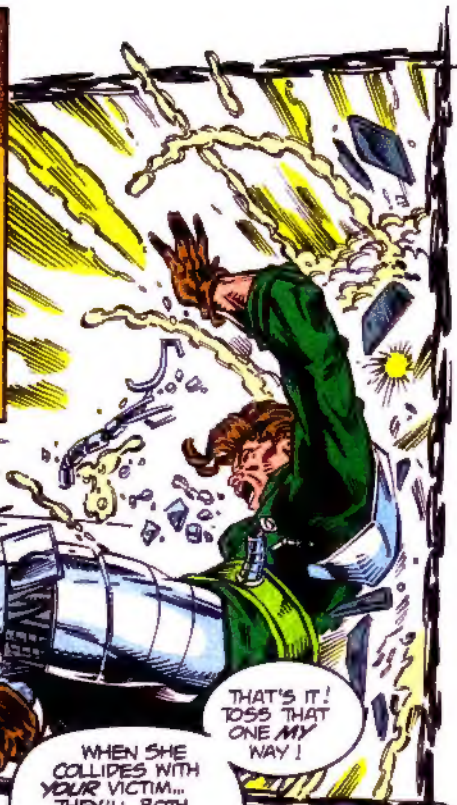
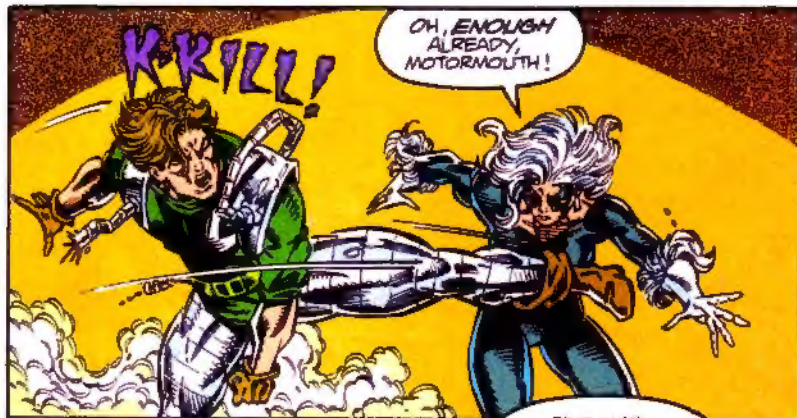
THEY JUST GO SNAP, CRACKLE, POP!



K-KILL!

SORRY...

WAS "SNAP, CRACKLE, POP" TOO MUCH OF A BABY BOOMER REFERENCE FOR YOU?





FIFTY-FIVE SECONDS
TO SELF-DESTRUCT.

THE
COMPUTERS
HAVE A FAIL-
SAFE!



THEY'RE ENACTING
AN EMERGENCY
DOWNLOADING
PROCEDURE...

...THE DANGEROUS
DATA WILL ONLY BE
SAVED FOR DR.
MORELLE!



I CAN
CERTAINLY
PREVENT
THAT FROM
HAPPENING!

FIFTY SECONDS
TO SELF-DESTRUCT.



MY
WORK IS
DONE.

DONE?

LIKE 'STICK
A FORK IN ME,
I'M DONE...?'

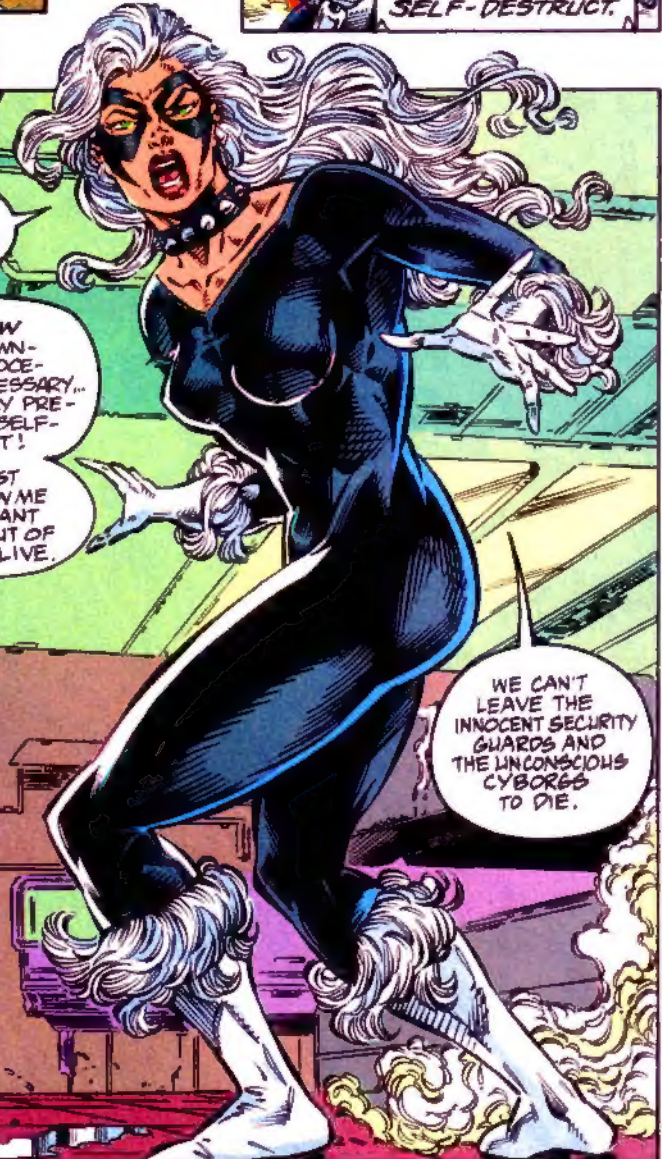
FORTY
SECONDS
TO SELF-
DESTRUCT.

I
STAND
CORRECTED.

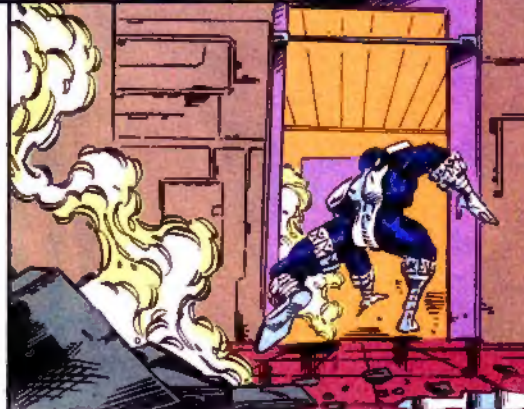
YOU KNOW
SUCH A DOWN-
LOADING PROCE-
DURE IS NECESSARY...
AND USUALLY PRE-
CEDES A SELF-
DESTRUCT!

I SUGGEST
YOU FOLLOW ME
IF YOU WANT
TO GET OUT OF
HERE ALIVE.

'CAUSE
THAT'S WHAT
THE PLACE
WILL BE...WHEN
THE FAIL-SAFE
GOES OFF...
IN FIFTY
SECONDS!



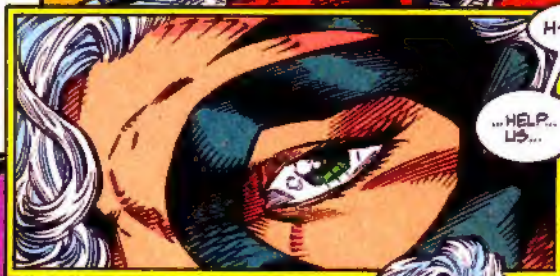
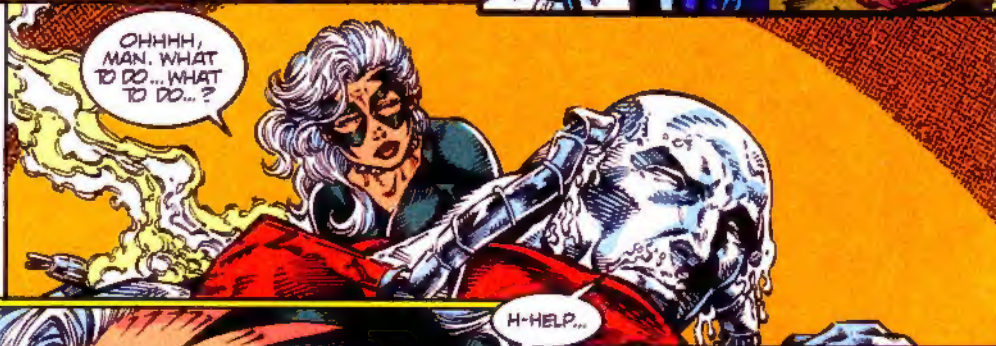
WE CAN'T
LEAVE THE
INNOCENT SECURITY
GUARDS AND
THE UNCONSCIOUS
CYBORGS
TO DIE.





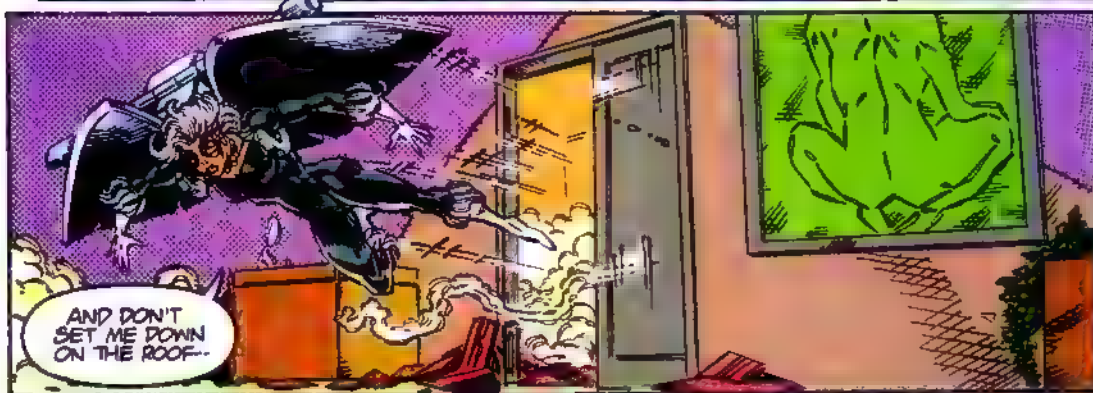
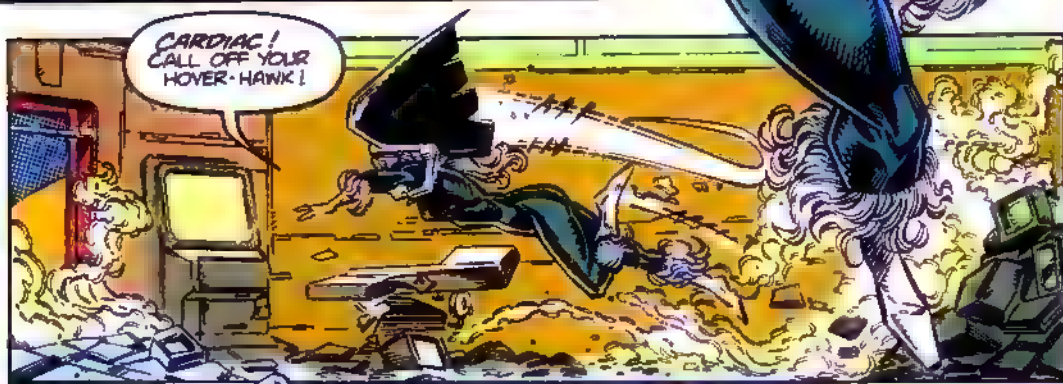
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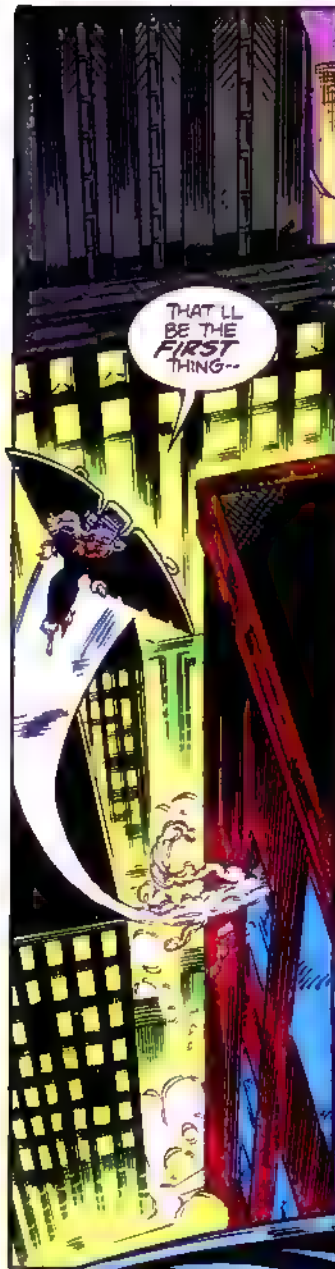


15

10

5

1



THAT'LL
BE THE
FIRST
THING--



--THAT
GOES!

IF IT
MEANS
ANY--
THING...
...THIS
ISN'T THE
WAY...
I
WANTED
IT TO
END!

WOOM

I
HOPE YOU'RE
SATISFIED.

I SEE
THE HOVER-
HAWK SAVED
WHAT WAS
REALLY
IMPORTANT
TO YOU...

THAT
OVERGROWN
MATCHSTICK.

MY
BETA-
BATON
CONTINUES
TO SERVE A
PURPOSE.

MY
PURPOSE.

I WASN'T
WORRIED
ABOUT YOUR
PURPOSE...

I WAS WORRIED ABOUT SOMEONE WHO WASN'T MYSELF!

YOU MIGHT TRY IT SOME TIME.

DID IT EVER OCCUR TO YOU THAT THOSE TEST SUBJECTS WERE JUST AS MUCH VICTIMS OF PROJECT: FIRST STRIKE AS WE WERE?

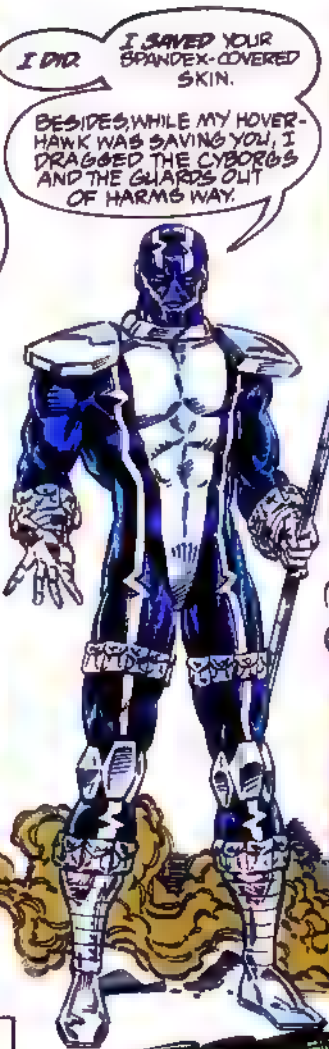
YOU COULD HAVE HELPED ME.



I DID.

I SAVED YOUR SPANDEX-COVERED SKIN.

BESIDES, WHILE MY HOVER-HAWK WAS SAVING YOU, I DRAGGED THE CYBORG'S AND THE GUARDS OUT OF HARM'S WAY.



WE HAVE A COMMON GOAL. YOU WILL SERVE THAT GOAL IF YOU LIVE TO FIGHT ANOTHER DAY.

SPEAKING OF THAT COMMON GOAL...

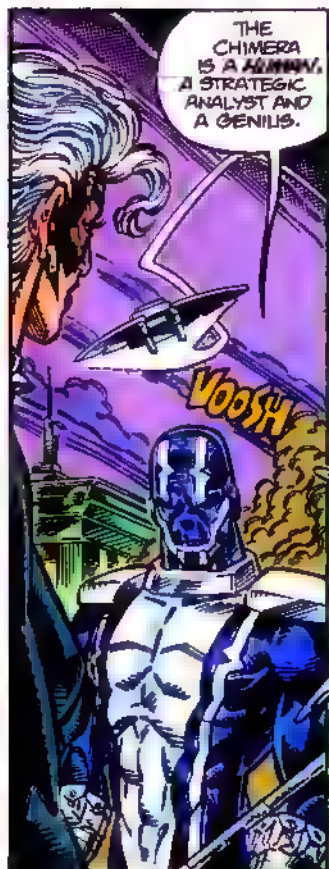
...YOU SEEM TO KNOW MORE THAN YOU'RE TELLING ABOUT THE CHIMERA!

YOU'RE ASSUMING THAT MORELLE'S SECRET ASSET IS A THING. IT IS NOT.



THE CHIMERA IS A HUMAN, A STRATEGIC ANALYST AND A GENIUS.

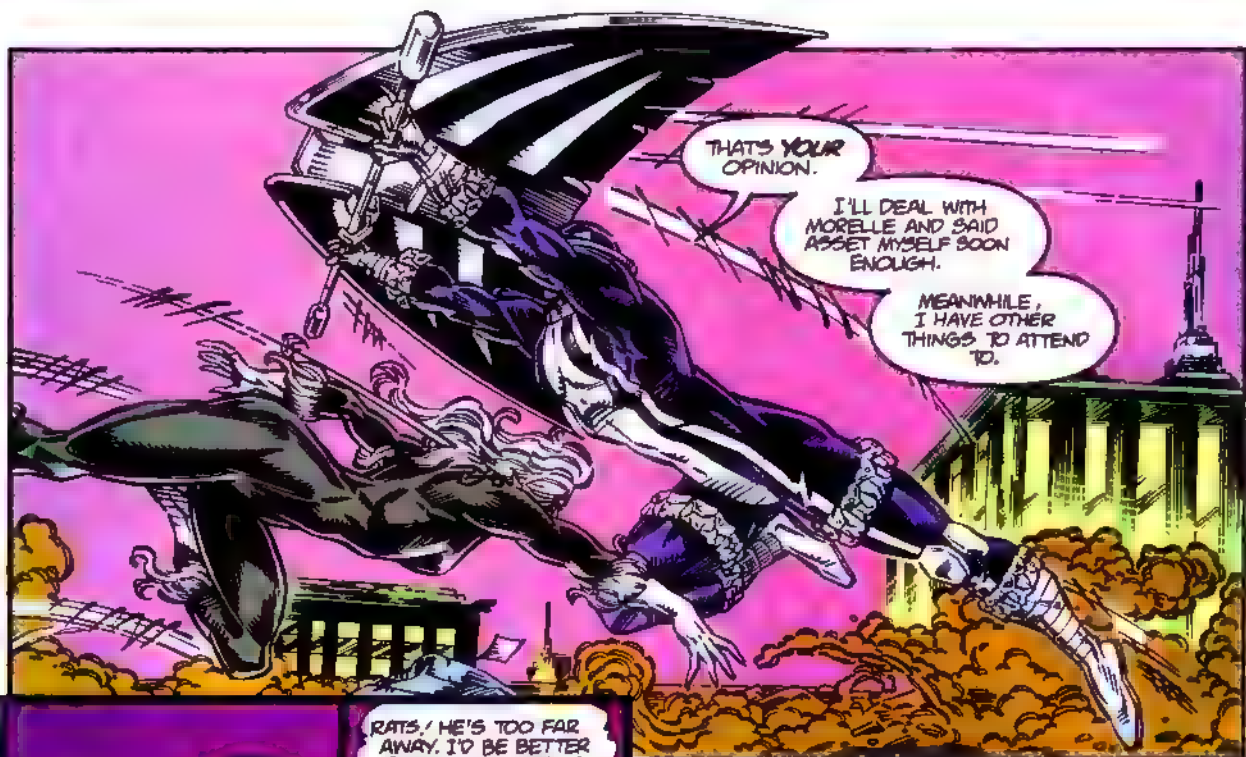
VOOSH



WAIT! WAIT! DON'T GET ON YOUR HOVER-HAWK JUST YET!

YOU DON'T GET AWAY THAT QUICKLY!

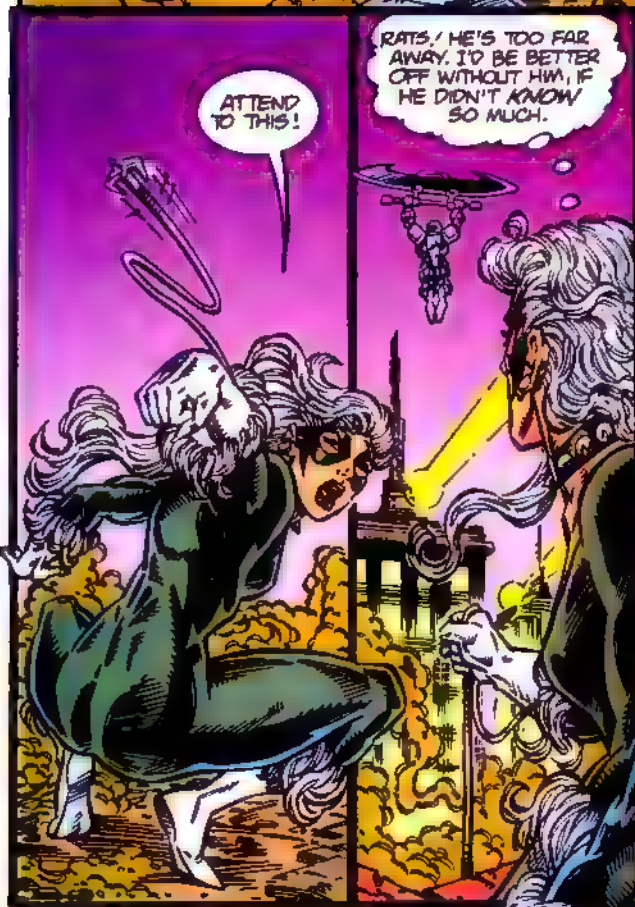




THAT'S YOUR
OPINION.

I'LL DEAL WITH
MORELLE AND SAID
ASSET MYSELF SOON
ENOUGH.

MEANWHILE,
I HAVE OTHER
THINGS TO ATTEND
TO.



ATTEND
TO THIS!

RATS! HE'S TOO FAR
AWAY. I'D BE BETTER
OFF WITHOUT HIM, IF
HE DIDN'T KNOW
SO MUCH.



CALL IT A
DAY, GIRL.
CUT YOUR
LOSSES AND
GO HOME.

BUT FOR SOME...
THE "DAY"
IS JUST
BEGINNING

HAVE TO DODGE
THE BROADWAY
LOCAL...

...BUT IF YOURS TRULY,
BRIAN LASH, COULD ENGINEER
HIS ESCAPE FROM A MAXIMUM-
SECURITY PRISON...*

CRASH *Crash* *Crash*

...I'M SURE I CAN
REMEMBER LITTLE
DETAILS LIKE "DON'T
STEP ON THE THIRD
RAIL!"

*YOU WERE HERE LAST
ISH, RIGHT? -- ERIC

THAT'S NOT THE
ONLY DETAIL
I RECALL.

MY STASH SHOULD
BE HERE...RIGHT WHERE
I LEFT IT!

IN SIR, I THOUGHT
ABOUT LITTLE ELSE...
EXCEPT HOW TO...
INVEST IT!

LATER, AT THE
SECRET WEAPONS
LAB OF VANDAL.

THIS WILL TAKE CARE
OF THE BLACK CAT.

HOW DO I
KNOW I CAN
TRUST THIS?

I DIDN'T GET WHERE
I AM BY PRODUCING SHODDY
MERCHANDISE, LASH



THEN, I'M SURE YOU WON'T MIND IF I TAKE THIS GEAR OUT FOR A TEST DRIVE HUH?

AND THEN, MAYBE I'LL PAY YOU FOR IT.



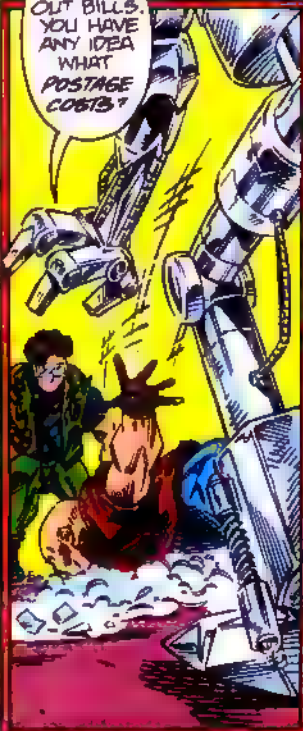
AGGGH



NOT AT ALL.

YOU SEE, I HAVE MY OWN LITTLE REPO MAN TO MAKE SURE PAYMENT GETS REMITTED ON TIME!

BEATS SENDING OUT BILLS. YOU HAVE ANY IDEA WHAT POSTAGE COSTS?



IT'S BEEN A BUSINESS DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU.

GRUMBLE GRUMBLE

YEAH. ANOTHER SATISFIED CUSTOMER

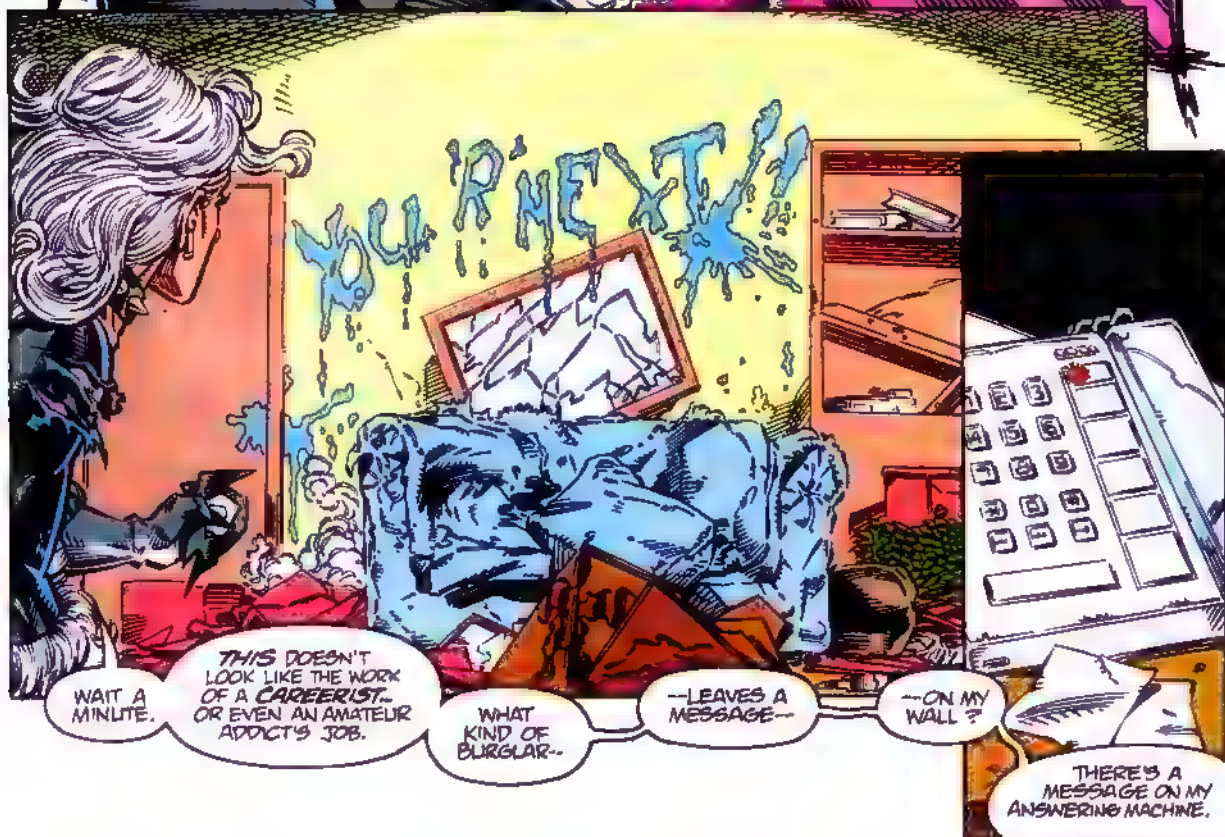
ELSEWHERE,
THAT NIGHT...

NO! NO,
I CAN'T
BELIEVE
IT!

WHAT IS THIS...
KARMA? AFTER ALL
MY YEARS IN THE
BUSINESS--

I'VE BEEN
ROBBED!

BURGLAR,
TRASHED,
RANSACKED,
FLEECE,
CLEANED
OUT--!



YOU'RE NEXT!!

WAIT A
MINUTE.

THIS DOESN'T
LOOK LIKE THE WORK
OF A CAREERIST...
OR EVEN AN AMATEUR
ADDICT'S JOB.

WHAT
KIND OF
BURGLAR--

--LEAVES A
MESSAGE--

--ON MY
WALL?

THERE'S A
MESSAGE ON MY
ANSWERING MACHINE.

I
WONDER
WHO IT
IS?

CLICK

ZRIT
ZRIT
ZRIT
ZRIT

MY FORMER "CAREER"
MAY HAVE ENABLED ME TO
KEEP FROM HAVING TO EARN
AN HONEST DOLLAR... BUT
IT'S COST ME EVERY-
THING ELSE...

MY RELATIONSHIP...
MY FRIENDS NOW
MY APARTMENT...

AND FLASH
HAD FOUND ME HERE...
IT MIGHT HAVE
COST MY LIFE!

BEEP

LIBERTY.

YEAH?
AND JUSTICE
FOR ALL,
CREEP.

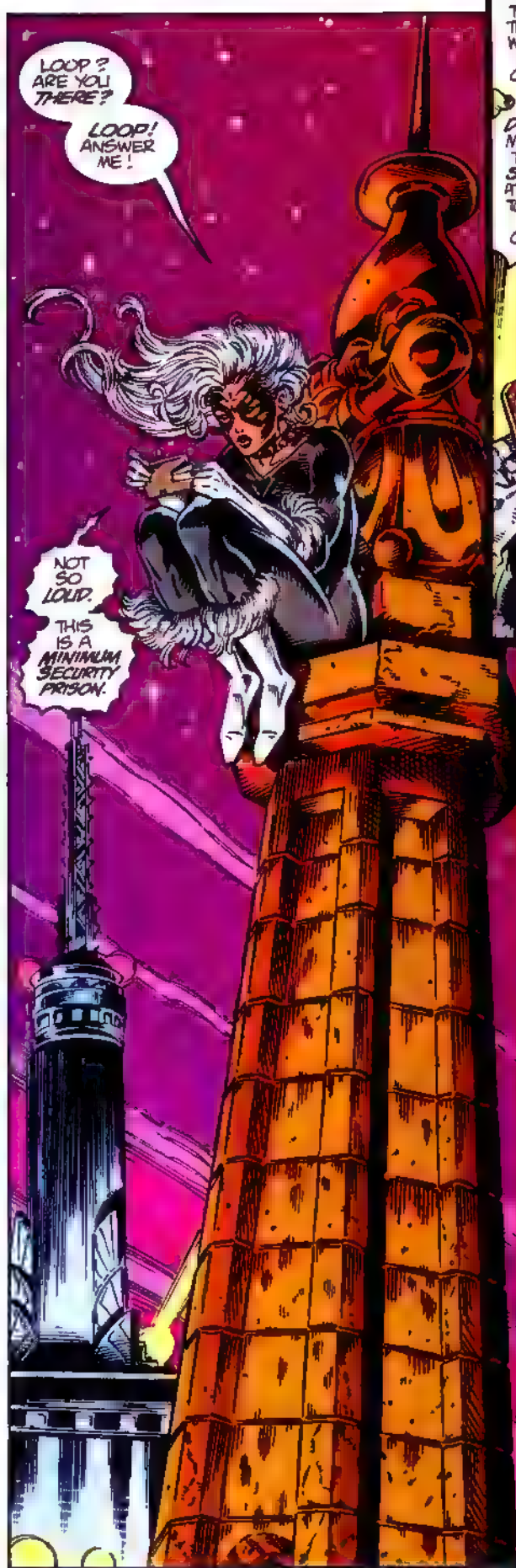
WAIT A
MINUTE--

--I THINK
I RECOGNIZE
THAT VOICE.

CHOK

IT'S LASH,
BRIAN
LASH!

IT CAN'T BE
BUT I KNOW
IT IS!



LOOP?
ARE YOU
THERE?

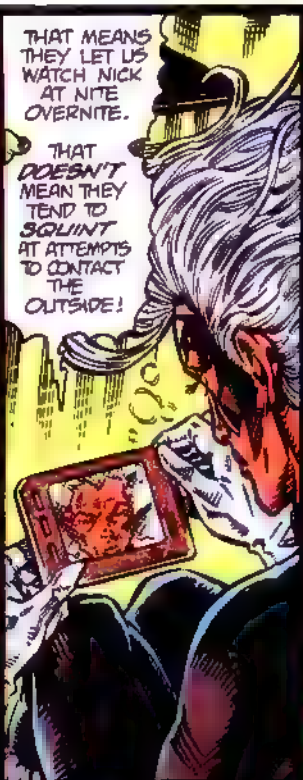
LOOP!
ANSWER
ME!

NOT
SO
LOUD.

THIS
IS A
MINIMUM
SECURITY
PRISON.

THAT MEANS
THEY LET US
WATCH NICK
AT NITE
OVERNITE.

THAT
DOESN'T
MEAN THEY
TEND TO
SQUINT
AT ATTEMPTS
TO CONTACT
THE
OUTSIDE!



NOW WHAT
DO YOU WANT...
AND MAKE IT
QUICK.

IF A GUARD
PASSES, I HAVE
TO SWITCH BACK
TO MARY TYLER
MOORE.

IT'S
ABOUT
YOUR
SON,
BRIAN.

YES, I KNOW.

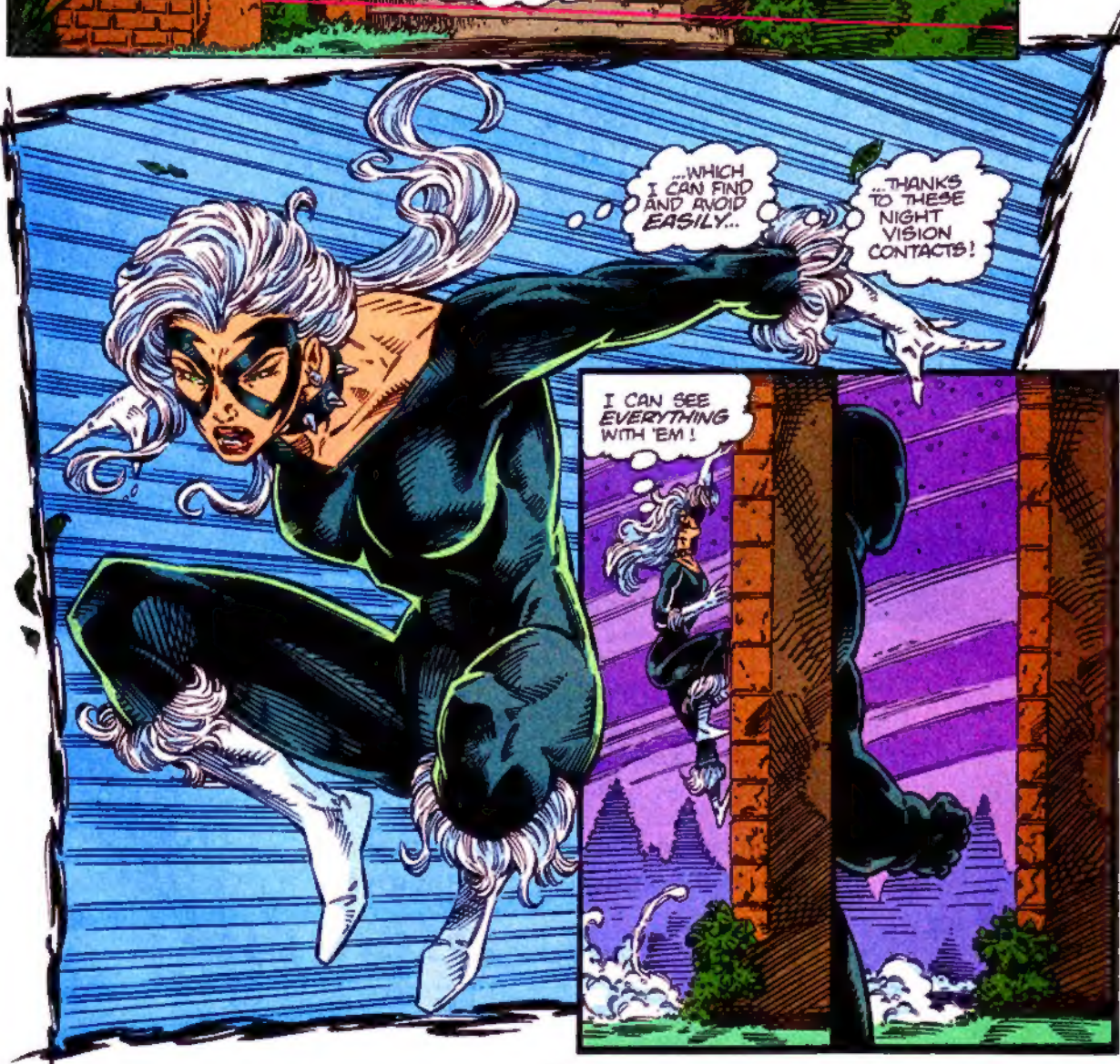
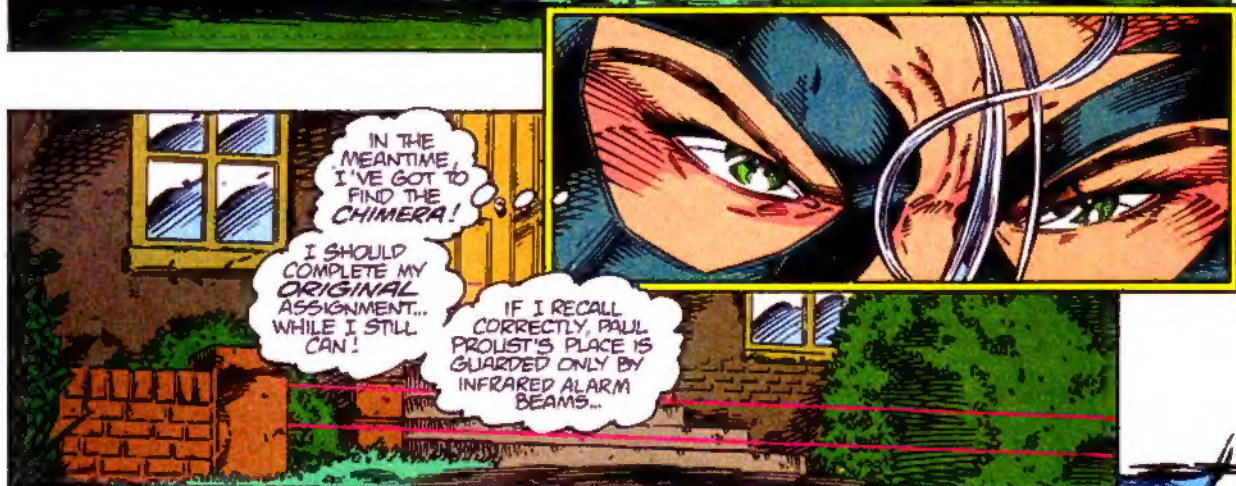
HE BUSTED OUT
OF HIS MAXIMUM
SECURITY HOSPITAL
ROOM.

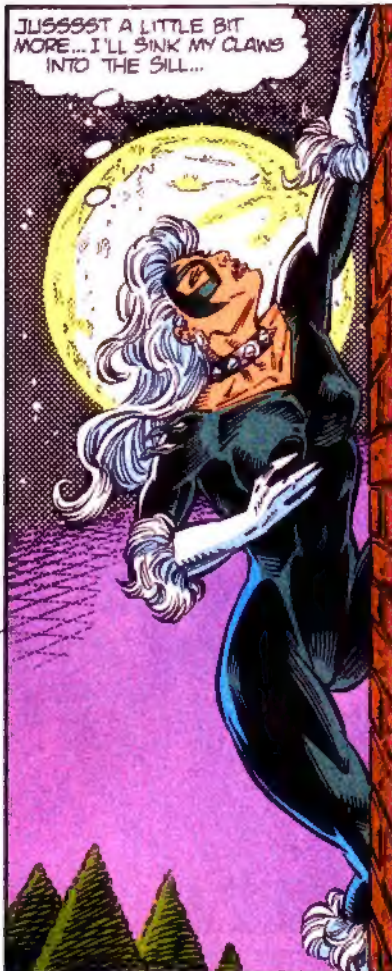
IN FACT, I'VE
BEEN TRYING TO
CONTACT YOU TO
WARN YOU SOON
AS I HEARD.

I KNOW IT'S
HORRIBLE FOR A
FATHER TO TALK ABOUT
HIS SON THIS WAY
BUT...

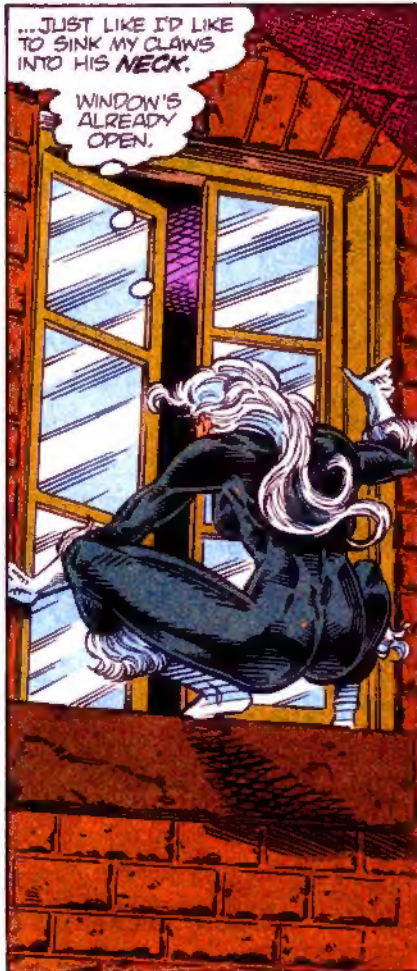
...HE'S CRAZY
AND DANGEROUS.
IF YOU DON'T GET TO
HIM FIRST, HE'LL
KILL YOU!







JUSSSSST A LITTLE BIT MORE... I'LL SINK MY CLAWS INTO THE SILL...



...JUST LIKE I'D LIKE TO SINK MY CLAWS INTO HIS NECK.

WINDOW'S ALREADY OPEN.



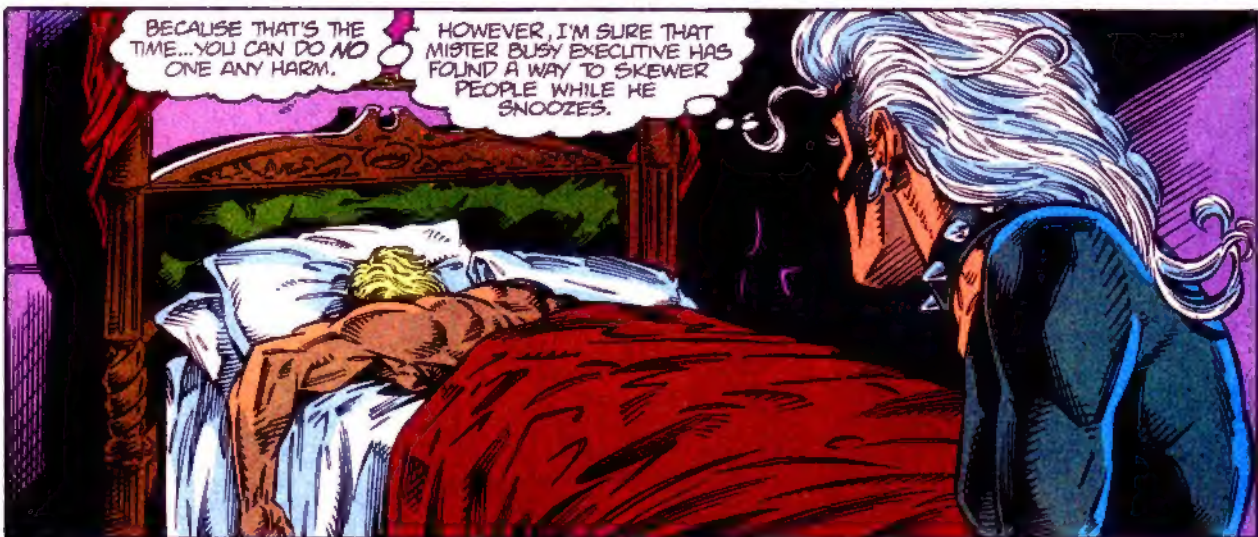
AS IF YOU WERE... EXPECTING COMPANY.

YEAH, THAT'S RIGHT. YOU'RE JUST IRRESISTIBLE, MR. PROUST. I CAN'T STAY AWAY.



AW. LOOK AT HIM. ISN'T HE ADORABLE?

THEY SAY THE MOST HOLY TIME IN A PERSON'S LIFE IS WHEN ONE SLEEPS.



BECAUSE THAT'S THE TIME... YOU CAN DO NO ONE ANY HARM.

HOWEVER, I'M SURE THAT MISTER BUSY EXECUTIVE HAS FOUND A WAY TO SKEWER PEOPLE WHILE HE SNOOZES.



THIS IS
YOUR WAKE-UP
CALL, "LOVER
BOY."



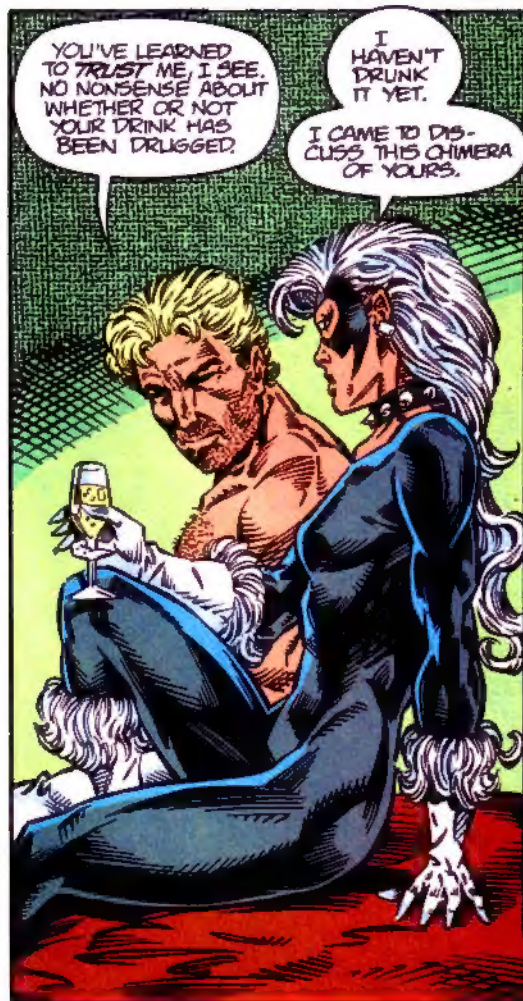
I KNOW
OF NO ONE
I'D RATHER
WAKE UP
TO.

WHAT?
HOW DID
Y--

SINCE YOU
LAST POINTED OUT
THE INEFFICIENCY OF
MY HOME ALARM
SYSTEM, IT WOULD
HAVE BEEN FOOLISH
OF ME NOT TO IN-
STALL SOME SILENT
PERIMETER
ALARMS.

JOIN
ME IN A
GLASS
OF
CHAMPAGNE?

WHAT DO
YOU DO,
HAVE IT ON
TAP HERE?



YOU'VE LEARNED
TO TRUST ME, I SEE.
NO NONSENSE ABOUT
WHETHER OR NOT
YOUR DRINK HAS
BEEN DRUGGED.

I
HAVEN'T
DRUNK
IT YET.
I CAME TO DIS-
CUSS THIS CHIMERA
OF YOURS.



NOT
YET.

IT
WOULD
BE A
SHAME
TO WASTE
GOOD
CHAMPAGNE.



FINE,
YOU
HAVE IT.

THE CHIMERA
IS YOU,
ISN'T IT?

YOU HIRED
ME TO FIND OUT
HOW TIGHT THE
SECURITY IS
SURROUNDING
YOU!



KRKRASH

TAKE IT FROM ME...

...THE SECURITY HERE...COULD USE SOME IMPROVEMENT!

SOMEONE JUST BLEW OUT THE WINDOW!

LASH?!

DON'T CALL ME THAT!

I NOW GO BY THE NAME...OF **SCAR**--

--**SCAR** THE **STALKER**!

UNIMRESSED?

WHAT IF I TOLD YOU THIS ARMOR ENABLED ME TO BLOCK OUT YOUR OWN TECHNOLOGICALLY-ENHANCED SENSES...AND DISABLE THIS ESTATE'S ALARMS?

TRUST ME...IT'S EQUIPPED WITH **MANY** WAYS--

--TO **SKIN A CAT**!

TAKE THIS **NIFTY** WRIST MOUNTED CROSSBOW, FOR INSTANCE...

NO! NO!

GET UP! YOU HAVE TO GET UP!

THIS CAN'T BE OVER!

TO BE CONCLUDED!